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CALGARY • MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

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**Celebrity Buzz**



**Vaughn  
ditching  
bachelor  
status?**

pg 26

## Tobacco sales in Alberta drop again

**CONSUMPTION** Tobacco sales in Alberta are declining for the second consecutive year as the result of lower than anticipated consumption, according to the provincial government's quarterly fiscal update released last month.

Health groups are attributing the projected decline to the new Tobacco Reduction Act, which came into effect on Jan. 1, 2008.

"It appears that the Tobacco Reduction Act is having the desired effect on tobacco consumption," said Angeline Webb, Cancer Control Analyst for the Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta/NWT Division.

The total projected tobacco tax revenue for the current fiscal year is short \$50 million — down six per cent from the initial budget projection.



METRO  
CALGARY

**Seasonal Depression**



**When holidays aren't so merry**

First of a two-part series, pgs 8, 10

**Workology pg 22**

**Gift expertise under wraps**

**Going Green pg 20**



**Save money, keep the heat**



With 31 centimetres of snow in just over a week, the city's snow-removal budget is taking a major hit. Calgary's snow-removal budget is less than half of Edmonton's and about one-third of Toronto's, despite having similar annual snowfall.

## Calgary lags behind in snow-removal budget

Edmonton allots twice as much despite similar snowfall

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
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**Despite roads crews doing their best to remove the snow, city motorists are still spinning their wheels in frustration and at least one city alderman wants more money in the removal budget.**

Ward 4 Ald. Bob Hawkesworth told Metro he has been trying to get more money for snow removal for two years — and that was before the latest snowstorm left the city in a standstill.

"We should do more. When people pay for in-

adequate snow and ice removal and then face delays and accidents ... it's one of those things if you don't do it, it costs more," Hawkesworth said.

Calgary has one of the lowest snow-removal budgets across the country at \$21 million, according to Calgary Roads, while our northern counterparts in Edmonton have \$49 million.

But comparing the two cities is like comparing apples and oranges, Edmonton roads maintenance director Bob Duncan said.

"As much as people want to compare, we have much different types of winters," he added.

### In comparison

Snow-removal budgets compared with annual average snowfall:

- Vancouver — \$400,000; 8 centimetres
- Calgary — \$21 million; 106.5 cms
- Edmonton — \$49 million; 123.5 cms
- Ottawa — \$66 million; 202.5 cms
- Toronto — \$67 million; 133 cms
- Montreal — \$128 million; 214 cms

And while Calgary has on average 106.5 centimetres of snowfall per year according to Environment

Canada, the city has already had more than 31 cm in just over a week.

"There has just been so much snow ... but we don't let our budget stop us from doing what we need to do," Calgary roads spokesperson Lorie Boychuk said.

Ward 12 Ald. Ric McIver says the issue isn't only about the budget, but the operating of the snow removal, too.

"Half the people I talk to want us to do more, the others say we should just drive better ... there is no perfect answer, but we always have enough to get us to the end of the year," McIver added.

**New year, new start at city hall?**

NEIL MACKINNON  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**DEBATES** Ruffled feathers are part of the job description, but two city aldermen think council needs to put its collective differences aside in the new year in order to be "more effective."

Heated debates over the city's three-year budget process and \$25-million pedestrian bridges over the Bow River have left aldermen "much more adversarial and as a result, less effective" than at any time in recent memory, said Ald. Ray Jones.

"In the last four months, people have really been at each others' throats and I think some of that comes from the economic situation," Ald. Ray Jones

situation, especially surrounding the budget," said Jones. "We've got to start working as a group, as we're elected to do."

A strategic planning meeting slated for Jan. 20 should provide an opportunity for some healing, and Ald. John Mar likened council to "one big, not always happy family."

"We may not see eye to eye about every single issue, but at the end of the day, we're stuck with each other," Mar said. "We have 15 individuals with differing backgrounds and different ideas on how this city should move forward, so no matter what, there's going to be conflict."

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# Local



## A family-friendly New Year's bash

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Bright Night at the Olympic Plaza with the City of Calgary and The Downtown Association. The free celebration will feature family entertainment, games and food. The party begins at 6 p.m. and will run until 12:30 a.m.  
**METRO CALGARY**



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**ROGERS**

**News in brief**

**CONFLICT** An ongoing dispute at the Black Bear Crossing in the Tsuu T'ina Nation just got more heated. Two residents in a legal battle with the Nation found out the utilities will stay off as ordered by a Calgary judge. The two are holdouts in a legal battle and the Tsuu T'ina Nation cut off the utilities in the homes of the residents trying to force them to move out, so they can demolish Black Bear Crossing.  
**METRO CALGARY**

**metronews.ca**  
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Comment** Guidy Mamman praises the "effortless peace" of Canadian multiculturalism at metro-news.ca/immigration

**Tomorrow's Metro News**

Part 2 of Metro's series on seasonal depression.

**Lotteries**

Friday, Dec. 19  
Lotto Super 7: 2, 16, 17, 21, 23, 36 & 45 Bonus 22  
Saturday, Dec. 20  
Lotto 6/49: 4, 7, 8, 10, 47 & 48 Bonus 6  
These results are not official.

## Market offers respite from mall woes

**NEIL MACKINNON**  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**With two fresh geese and a Christmas ham, Alexandra Parkins was planning an organic feast for her friends and family this holiday season.**

"It just makes it that much richer of an experience," said Parkins yesterday as she made her rounds at the Calgary Farmers Market. "I still do a lot of shopping at normal grocery stores, but this is a lot more fun."

The entire spread will be organic this year, Parkins said, including a Christmas Eve fondue, a family tradition.

"I'm at an age when we're trying to eat better anyway," the 55-year-old said. "So it just makes sense that we carry it over to the holidays as well."

While shopping centre parking lots were gridlocked catalysts for road rage yesterday, the last major shopping day before Christmas, the Farmers Market was much more



Karen Erickson from Wild About Gardens hopes her stocking will be filled this year down at the Calgary Farmers Market.

laid back in comparison, despite the fact that hundreds turned out, many unaware that it had extended its hours and will be open today and tomorrow to accommodate the last-minute rush.

Shae MacDonald, who makes a weekly pilgrimage to the Farmers Market with her husband Greg, said the market's organic offerings have become staples on their dinner table year-round, but yesterday's

trip was more for stocking-stuffers and small gifts as they plan on heading to Red Deer to visit family over the holidays.

"There are no real big-ticket items, unless you're a hippie," joked Greg.

## Centre says date-rape drug use rising

**DRUGS** She only had two drinks that night, so when Amy started throwing up convulsively and later woke up in confusion, she believed she was drugged.

The Calgarian said she will be more careful about drinking in bars, but said a warning from the Central Alberta Crisis Centre to Red Deer that date-rape drug use is on the rise should be heeded everywhere.

"I know a lot of girls who had the same thing happen to them ... it's a horrible feeling to wake up and not know what happened the night before," she said.

Amy, who withheld her last name, said she isn't surprised use of the drug is on the rise. RCMP Cpl. Wayne Oakes said people should always watch their drinks.

"Nobody leave their drinks unattended anywhere. It may sound ridiculous, but what's stopping anyone from putting something in your drink?"

**KRISTA SYLVESTER/**  
**METRO CALGARY**



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With Christmas fast approaching, some Calgarians may still be looking for that proper real tree. Those real trees can be dumped off at 31 locations throughout the city, including three municipal landfill sites, free of charge with the city's tree mulching program. **METRO CALGARY**

## Kids relish a chance to hit the ice

NEIL MACKINNON  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**WEATHER** Nick Labrosse and Reno Meyn don't care if some people think they've lost their minds.

While Calgarians spent the last week complaining about road conditions and dreaming of a return to more temperate thermometer readings, the two 15-year-olds just hoped it would stay cold.

"That's all I've been wanting for weeks," said a frosty-browed Labrosse yesterday behind the Temple Community Centre. "I just wanted it to stay cold enough so we could get some decent ice."

Labrosse has gotten what he asked for as most of Calgary's 123 outdoor rinks have fresh sheets of ice, perfect for the odd pickup hockey game or just a quick skate.

And no harsh, sustained dip in the temperature is going to keep Meyn from heading out nearly every night until the heat breaks things up.

# Only \$11 for chance to get a mortgage-free house

### A well-written essay could net someone a new home

JEFF CUMMINGS  
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

**David Stockburger, who has been renovating a four-bedroom house in Edmonton ever since he and his wife bought it, is hoping to give it up as a prize six months from now for someone looking for a home that's mortgage-free, completely renovated and ready to move in.**

"Housing prices, even with the markets down, it is still out of reach for lots of people to get into the market," said Stockburger about why he's hoping to give up the home.

Stockburger says the idea came from his six-year-old daughter, who suggested one day selling the home for \$5 after the family already spent countless hours trying to renovate it.

And in order to pick the



David Stockburger is challenging potential homeowners to enter essays on why they deserve to live mortgage-free, in order to win a newly renovated house. The cost? Only \$11 to enter.

why they deserve to live in a mortgage-free home through the family's website at The11dollarhouse.com.

The submissions also include an \$11 entry fee and if Stockburger only gets a minimum number of entries by possibly Feb. 15, he says he will still be happy with pocketing \$25,000 since he's learned some "life lessons," even with house valued at roughly \$300,000.

"We've had a couple of entries where we've had a couple who, if they won, they would like to have the house set up to house out-of-towners who have loved ones in the hospital," said Stockburger, who hopes to have 1,000 entries before New Year's Eve.

"Other people just tell us their life stories about where they're at and what winning this house would mean to them."

## Stolen car recovery high in Calgary

**REPORT** Calgary's recovery rate of stolen vehicles is more than 20 per cent higher than the national average, according to a Statistics Canada report.

The city's recovery rate is 86 per cent, while the national rate is 63 per cent. Alberta as a whole recovers 75 per cent of stolen vehicles. The report also said teens between 15 and 18 years old are responsible for three out of 10 vehicle thefts.

## Trash collection days adjusted

**HOLIDAYS** Calgarians are going to have to think one day ahead through the holiday season when it comes to putting out their trash.

While there will be no collection on Christmas or New Year's days, starting today, trash pickup will be bumped a day earlier until Dec. 31 for most city residents.

Regular garbage collection resumes Jan. 2.

# Season's Greetings

**B**est wishes to all of our students, staff and their families for a safe and happy holiday season.

We look forward to continuing our work with you in 2009 as we strive to have each student leave school with a foundation for life, work and continued learning.

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## Public Notice

### Residential garbage collection Temporary holiday schedule changes

Dec. 23, 2008 – Jan. 2, 2009

Waste & Recycling Services wishes all Calgarians a happy and safe holiday season. As we wind down another year of operations, there are a few temporary residential garbage collection schedule changes in effect during the holiday season.

If you receive garbage collection service on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, the following temporary changes will be in effect during the holiday season only. Collection of your garbage will happen one day earlier than normal until the end of 2008. We'll resume garbage collection on your regular collection day during the first week of January.

If you receive garbage collection service on Friday, there's no change to your collection schedule. You'll continue to receive service on Fridays during the holiday season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22 Tuesday collection happens today	23 Wednesday collection happens today	24 Thursday collection happens today	25 (Christmas Day – No garbage collection)	26 No change – Regular Friday collection day	27
28	29 Tuesday collection happens today	30 Wednesday collection happens today	31 Thursday collection happens today	1 (New Year's Day – No garbage collection)	2 No change – Regular Friday collection day	3

**Commercial garbage collection** - There are no changes to commercial garbage collection schedules during the holiday season.

**Recycling depot operations** - There are no changes to recycling depot operations during the holiday season.

**City of Calgary landfills** - City of Calgary landfills will be closed on Dec. 25, 2008 and Jan. 1, 2009.

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Edmonton City Centre kiosk II  
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Northgate Centre kiosk  
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8

**Newfoundland man in hospital after being Tasered**  
A man from the Newfoundland town of Sandringham was in critical condition yesterday after police used a Taser to subdue him during a violent confrontation. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada



Arto Tienaho, who battled depression and anxiety throughout his life, is shown outside his New Westminster, B.C., home. Tienaho said the pressure to have fun during the holidays can compound feelings of anxiety.

## Holiday time not joyful for everyone

Added stress can compound problems for people battling depression, anxiety

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
for Metro Canada

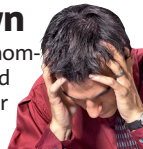
**The high-energy Christmas carols and TV ads tell us the upcoming holidays are a time to be merry, but for anxious or depressed people the pressure to be joyous can compound — not alleviate — their feelings.**

Arto Tienaho said he suffered throughout much of his life from anxiety and depression — two different disorders that are often diagnosed together.

“(During the holidays,)

### Tuesday's Metro Meltdown

The global economic meltdown and its effects on our workplaces are resulting in added stress as 2008 comes to an end. There are ways to alleviate that anxiety, experts say, and get through the layoffs, workplace instability and fears of what 2009 will bring.



METRO FEATURE

### Seasonal Depression

there's a sort of pressure that you're supposed to have fun, and if you're not, it exacerbates the condition,” he said.

He described depression and anxiety as walking around with a perpetual perception of fear.

“It's the same feeling you get when you're driving on the highway and there's a semi right behind you.”

During the winter, the early nightfall and bad weather intensify the problem, said Dr. Connie Coniglio Director of Health Literacy for B.C. Mental Health and Addiction Services (PHSA).

“Despite all the marketing that suggest the holidays are supposed to be such a wonderful time, a lot of people experience stress (regarding) finances, family relationships, loneliness, grief and loss.”

Tienaho, who has his

### Anxiety study

- Anxiety disorders affect around 12 per cent of Canadians. About nine per cent of men and 16 per cent of women were found with it in a one-year study done in 2002 by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

disorders under control and is now a manager at AnxietyBC, said it took years of trial-and-error to find respite.

“Education is a really important tool,” he said, adding that “little things” like getting exercise and keeping a list of goals for the holidays help.

“Keep it simple,” he said. “Commit to doing a 15- or 30-minute walk. Socialize with people who are positive influences in your life. And realize that you're not the only one ... feeling down at this time. The sooner you can recognize (the stress) and intervene, the better you'll be.”

MORE COVERAGE PG 10



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Fire claims lives of three children in Newfoundland

Three young children in Newfoundland were killed in a fire that destroyed a home on Bell Island, 35 kilometres west of St. John's, yesterday. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Depression and sleep disorders connected

## Removing distractions can help: Expert

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
Metro Canada

**The night seems endless when you suffer from depression.**

"We know from sleep research studies depressed people have trouble falling asleep and staying asleep," said Rachel Morehouse, a psychiatrist who is an expert in sleep disorders and circadian rhythms at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

So it's hard to sleep, but what do you do about it? Morehouse said the first thing to do is deal with the underlying problem, which is the depression. She suggested starting with the family doctor. "It's something we can treat, so why suffer?"

And don't become a night owl. It might seem easiest to stay up late and sleep in but it's not a good idea, Morehouse said.

To get a good night's sleep, make sure your sleep environment is as pleasant as possible.

### METRO FEATURE Seasonal Depression

"Their sleep schedules go right off the rails," she said.

Keep your regular sleep-wake schedule and make your sleep environment as pleasant as possible. Take out all the distractions

like the TV and make it relaxing.

Alcohol and marijuana might help you fall asleep, but it won't keep you there, Morehouse said. Plus, intoxicants don't give you the restorative sleep you need.

Also, she suggested to eat properly, go for walks, and meet with friends to help with the blues.



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People in Spain are anxiously awaiting the results for El Gordo ("the big one"), an annual Christmas lottery worth more than two billion euros. The winning numbers are scheduled to be announced today. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# World



## Man survives bird flu

A 19-year-old Cambodian man has survived the H5N1 bird flu virus which has killed seven other people in the poor South-east Asian nation since 2005, a health ministry official said yesterday. The youth, who became infected after eating dead poultry, was discharged from a Phnom Penh hospital on Saturday after being treated for 10 days.

REUTERS

## PM hopefuls target Hamas

The two leading candidates to become Israel's next prime minister vowed yesterday to topple Hamas's government in the Gaza Strip, raising tensions after a ceasefire ended in violence.

The threats by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and right-wing Likud party chief Benjamin Netanyahu followed a cabinet meeting in which outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert cautioned against rushing into a large-scale operation in the Hamas-ruled enclave.

Such an operation could result in heavy casualties, fuel a major humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and spark international outcry against Israel.

If elected premier in a

### Weekend violence

- Palestinian militants have fired nearly 60 makeshift rockets and mortar shells at Israel since the ceasefire with Hamas ended on Friday.
- Over the weekend, an Israeli air strike killed one militant and at least one person in Israel was injured by a shell shrapnel.

Feb. 10 election, Livni, who heads the centrist Kadima party, said her government's objective would be to "topple the Hamas regime" using military, economic and diplomatic means.

Netanyahu, Livni's main rival for the premiership, called for a more "active policy of attack."

REUTERS

## Scotland A town remembers



Mourners embrace during a service yesterday at the Lockerbie air disaster memorial in Lockerbie, Scotland. Yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet flying from London to New York that killed 270 people.

REUTERS/DAVID MOIR

### News in brief

**CHINA** Snow and freezing weather have swept northern China, causing travel chaos for thousands. In Beijing's neighbouring city of Tianjin, all

flights were cancelled at the Binhai International Airport due to heavy snow, which also sealed road and rail links, television news said.

REUTERS

## Russian police detain import tariff protesters

**VLADIVOSTOK** Riot police clubbed, kicked and detained dozens of people in Russia's Far East yesterday as hundreds across the country protested an increase in car import tariffs.

Inflation, rising unemployment and a slide in the ruble have driven discontent, and the Kremlin fears the deteriorating economic situation could lead to public unrest. With domes-

tic car production suffering, the government announced this month higher import tariffs on automobiles.

Hundreds rallied in the city Saturday and demonstrators hoped to rally again yesterday. But authorities refused to authorize the demonstration and hundreds of riot police blocked the square where it was planned.

REUTERS

## Socialists rise in Greek polls

**UNREST** Greece's opposition Socialist party has stretched its poll lead to as much six per cent over the ruling Conservatives amid public discontent, surveys showed yesterday.

Protests have entered a third week since the killing of a 15-year-old by

police, but Greeks were split on whether the government should call a vote.

Hundreds of students fought running battles with police in the centre of Athens late on Saturday and demonstrations continue to clog the square outside parliament.

REUTERS

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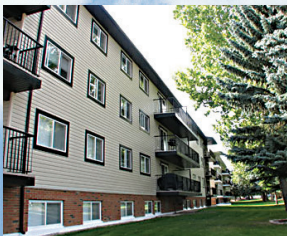
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# Plane catches fire off runway

**Thirty-eight passengers were injured when a Boeing 737 airliner went off a runway and caught fire at Denver International Airport Saturday night, Denver Aviation Manager Kim Day said.**

None of the injuries were life-threatening, but the injured passengers were taken to area hospitals, Day told reporters.

There were 112 passengers and crew members on the Boeing 737, Continental Airlines flight 1404, which was taking off en

route to Houston, Day said.

Denver assistant fire chief Steve Garrod said the plane "crashed, caught fire" and flames extended into the cabin. He said the right wing was cracked, as was the fuselage.

The fire chief said he did not believe the plane had become fully airborne because if it had, "you would have seen a lot more damage."

It was a cold night in Denver, but "ice was not a factor," Garrod said.

**REUTERS**

## 60 Sri Lankan soldiers killed

**SRI LANKA** Tamil Tiger fighters killed at least 60 Sri Lankan soldiers in a counterattack on forces advancing on the group's self-proclaimed capital, a pro-rebel website said yesterday.

A military spokesman confirmed fighting broke out Saturday south of Kilinochchi. He said Sri Lankan soldiers killed at least 14 rebels while re-

pell the counterattack, which wounded 34 and left 12 missing.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) wounded 150 in the clashes, www.TamilNet.com said. The report did not mention rebel deaths, but said soldiers were driven back two kilometres. The statement was denied by the military.

**REUTERS**

## Bucharest So many Santas



Around 4,000 people dressed as Santa Claus gathered yesterday in front of Romania's Parliament Palace in a successful attempt to win the Guinness world record for the most numerous Santa Clauses in one town.

### News in brief

**BOLIVIA** President Evo Morales declared the country free of illiteracy Saturday after a three-year project sponsored by his allies. Cuba and Venezuela helped about 820,000 people learn to read and write. Roughly 97 per cent of the adult population in Bolivia,

South America's poorest country, can now read and write, project officials said.

**IRAQ** The Shi'ite-led Iraqi government told nearly 3,500 opposition Iranians living in exile in Iraq yesterday that it planned to close their camp and they had to leave the

country. A delegation told the Iranians, who have lived for two decades at Camp Ashraf north of Baghdad, that the government was taking over responsibility for their security from U.S. troops, and that staying in Iraq was "not an option for them."

**REUTERS**

## Nations must send extra forces: NATO

**TROOPS** Other NATO members must follow the United States in committing extra forces to Afghanistan to ensure the burden of the battle against militants is properly shared, the alliance said yesterday.

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen said Washington aimed to send 20,000 to 30,000 extra troops to Afghanistan by the beginning of next summer to combat a growing Taliban insurgency.

A NATO diplomat said the alliance wanted to avoid a situation in which two or three of the 26 allies did almost all the dangerous work.

The U.S. already has some 31,000 troops in Afghanistan, out of a total foreign force there of more than 65,000 from 40-plus nations.

Britain has the second biggest force at 8,700, more than twice as many troops as next-in-line Germany, France, Canada and Italy.

**REUTERS**

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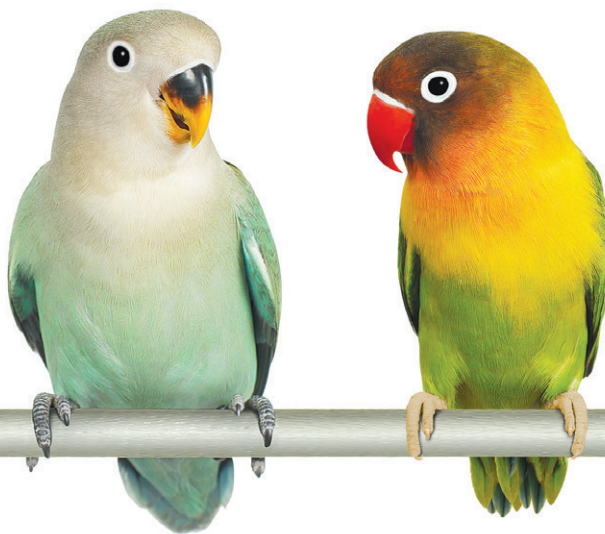
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Taiwanese tech firms cut costs with forced leave for workers

Putting workers on forced unpaid leave, often for one or more days a week, is a tactic being adopted in Taiwan as firms seek to cut costs amid the worldwide economic crunch and keep skilled workers on the payroll, even if there is little work to do, so they will have resources when orders pick up. REUTERS

# Colombian rebels to free six

**Colombia's FARC rebels said they would soon free six hostages from jungle camps in their first hostage gesture since high-profile captive Ingrid Betancourt and three Americans were rescued by the military in July.**  
The FARC said three po-

lice officers and one soldier would be freed first, followed by a former governor, Alan Jara, and local lawmaker Sigifredo Lopez, who have both spent more than six years in secret rebel camps deep in the jungle.  
The hostages would be

handed to a group led by Piedad Cordoba, a left-wing Colombian senator who helped broker past deals with Latin America's oldest insurgency.  
The negotiated release would be the FARC's first since February, when four lawmakers were freed in a

deal with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.  
The rebels have since been battered by deaths, military setbacks and desertions. Three top rebel commanders have died this year, including FARC founder Manuel Marulanda.  
REUTERS

## News in brief

**ITALY** Down-and-outs and hard-up pensioners in Milan will enjoy a rare Christmas treat this year: Choice beluga caviar confiscated from traffickers. "Tests showed us the food was still perfectly OK to eat but it couldn't be stored much longer, so we decided to give it to the poor," the local forest police chief told Milan daily Corriere della Sera.

**MURDERS** Mexican police found nine decapitated bodies yesterday in a city near the tourist resort of Acapulco, and some of the victims might have been soldiers who were battling against powerful drug gangs. The bodies of the men were left on the side of a highway, while their heads were found in a plastic bag outside a shopping centre. REUTERS



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Pat on back for Christmas

## HineSight

Anne Hines



As a gift this Christmas, I'd like to offer readers two tips. One, as you elbow your way through stores searching for those final gifts, repeat this calming mantra "I can always give everyone a cheque. I can always give everyone a cheque." And, as you contemplate all those little joys yet to be ticked off your list, the cooking, baking, getting your Prozac prescription refilled, my second piece of advice is this: At all costs, avoid behaving like me.

**I want everyone to stop for just a moment, think of something you did well today, or even just that you did. Getting out of bed counts. Getting out of bed prepared to try to make it through another day counts even more.**

Yesterday, I finished writing a book. I don't mention this as a means of shameless self-promotion. Shameless self-promotion would be to say that the title is Parting Gifts: Notes on Loss, Love and Life; it's published by McArthur & Co., and that it will be available in fall '09. I would never stoop to that.

The point is, whenever I finish writing a book, I'm exhausted and muddled. I no longer know what the book is about. I'm not sure I care what the book is about. And, I'm feeling entirely unappreciated by my evil, evil

publisher who won't let me have the one thing I need to make the book really good: Four more lifetimes to work on it.

I always announce to my partner, Liz, that I am never writing another book. Not if my life depends on it. Or, the life of the entire free world. Or even, say, if space aliens came to earth and threatened to blow the place up, "Unless the Hines human dashes off 1,000 words on Why We Revere Space Aliens."

Instead, I dream of a job at Dairy Queen. Not only does dipping ice cream into

chocolate seem like a greater service to the world, I suspect the pay is better.

There is one thing I never do when I finish a book. I don't pause, tell myself I'm an amazing being for having accomplished something and that no matter how good or bad the end result may be, the measure of success is simply to have tried.

So, in these final days before the holiday, don't be like me. I want everyone to stop for just a moment, think of something you did well today, or even just that you did. Getting out of bed counts. Getting out of bed prepared to try to make it through another day counts even more. Now, give yourself a gift for Christmas: A pat on the back.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

deAfter  
metro



MICHAEL DE ADLER

## Views

# Spreading the wealth at parking lots

## InTransit

Chris Phalen



calgaryletters@metronews.ca

I happened upon a transient man in an Impark lot downtown after a quick romp up the Calgary Tower with my visiting family about a spring ago.

He scuttled up to me, discreetly tapped my shoulder, and politely asked if I would hand over my parking voucher. There was about one hour's worth of time credit remaining.

I was impressed with his capitalist scheme — albeit a grey area as a prosecutable offence — and was happy to oblige, knowing the second sale of my receipt would go to this bohemian entrepreneur and not back to the self-proclaimed civil servants at

Impark who unendingly pillage the pockets of Calgary motorists destined for the core.

This fellow wasn't the run-of-the-mill crackerjack loiterer. He was personable, seemingly meeting a low-needs lifestyle in his rat-atat getup as the numerous pre-used parking receipts tucked into the palms of his tattered fingerless gloves could attest.

But his method got me thinking.

Why don't citizens share the cost of parking?

How many un milked parking receipts shamelessly slip into the abyss of our car vents without the privilege of running their course?

And, how much extra money are the parking-service corporate elite pulling by doubling up on the short-stay parker?

Granted parking companies offer a myriad of payment options these days, but patrons more often

**How much extra money are the parking-service corporate elite pulling by doubling up on the short-stay parker?**

than not overpay just to keep the looming trigger-happy meter-man at bay.

Impark, for instance, incorporates technologies like wireless-cellphone payment options to rein in loitering and reselling stubs, as well as man patrol and other security measures.

The Calgary Parking Authority ties a single transaction to a licence plate rendering any receipt gifting futile.

It would be fitting though, in the spirit of the parking patron community to minimize effects of cut-throat capitalism, especially sharing the cost of

an annoying expense such as parking.

Call it consumer-to-consumer goodwill.

In retrospect, ownership of your parking time and receipt begins when the coins drop; you should be free to use that product any way desirable.

But, this basic principle of consumerism is hindered by the concept of borrowed time being supplanted by bureaucratic hum-chuckers who keep finding ways of suppressing the Good Samaritan.

If only the pundits of the parking lots could help Calgary commuters dump some unprovoked kindness in the coffers of community, we might not only spread some miniscule wealth, but a few smiles as well.

Chris Phalen is a web intern and regular contributor to Avenue magazine. He has also contributed to the Prince Albert Daily Herald, Globe and Mail and various magazines.

## Letters

### Take a look down south before slamming Queen

Re: Let's retire the Queen (Dec. 10).

It's unfortunate that Mr. Sullivan has no understanding of the Canadian constitution or the parliamentary system we have here.

The Queen as represented by the Governor General is a non-political symbol of the nation and occasionally an unbiased arbiter of governance controversies.

Does he really think an elected president would be unaffected by politics or be unbiased when rendering constitutional decisions? Have a look south of the border.

The Governor General exercises her prerogative powers in strict adherence to constitutional law and parliamentary precedence. The antics of our politicians over the past few weeks clearly show that leaving things to them is a recipe for chaos.

JOHN TAGG, TORONTO

### Let's not forget Canada was built by royalists

Re: Are we still a colony? (Dec. 16).

Although Prime Minister Stephen Harper deserves to be criticized for manipulating the Governor General to prorogue the parliament, Lawrence Martin's reference to former Ottawa Citizen editor Keith Spicer's comparison of Canada to Zimbabwe is uncalled for.

Both Martin and Spicer seem to have forgotten that the royalists transformed Canada from an overwhelmingly French-speaking country to an overwhelmingly English-speaking one.

Martin fails to realize that Canada is not simply another former British colony like India, Australia or New Zealand.

It is a country which was founded by a group of people who left their homes and hearths because of their loyalty to the crown.

As for the Governor General, let the Queen choose her own representative without any interference from the prime minister. This will allow him or her to act freely without being manipulated by the prime minister.

MAHMOOD ELAHI, OTTAWA

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Business in brief

**CREDIT** The Windsor Family Credit Union in Windsor, Ont., is trying to loosen cash for consumers in an effort to spark vehicle sales. It has created a cash pool of \$5 million to

finance new 2008 and 2009 models to eligible borrowers at four local dealers. Several automakers have attributed tight credit to their decline in sales. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

**GAMBLING** Las Vegas casino operator Wynn Resorts Ltd. has seen its shares fall 66 per cent since February as the casino industry grapples with a downturn in demand. **REUTERS**



## Working-class task force

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama unveiled a task force yesterday charged with helping struggling working families, as Obama also expanded his economic recovery plan to try to save three million jobs. The task force, to be headed by vice-president-elect Joe Biden, would aim to boost education and training. **REUTERS**

## Stock market offers some holiday steals

Investors could do their holiday shopping on Wall Street this week as bargain-basement prices for stocks and optimism over efforts to fight the year-long recession may prompt a year-end rally.

But not even a Santa Claus rally to end the year can rescue 2008 from going into the books as the worst for stocks since the Great Depression, thanks to the housing market slump, credit crisis and, finally, recession.

With just seven trading days left, the benchmark S&P 500 index is down 39.5 per cent for the year, on pace to match Wall Street's second-worst year yet, 1937, when the S&P also plummeted nearly 39 per cent.

That said, the slump in

**"You're getting a lot of people picking through the wreckage."**

Paul Nolte

stocks has left them relatively cheap. And analysts are now more optimistic that recession-fighting efforts such as the Federal Reserve's big interest-rate cuts may soon gain traction.

"You're getting a lot of people picking through the wreckage of this year and doing some selective buying," said Paul Nolte, director of investments at Hinsdale Associates.

"There are some good bargains out there and there is a fair amount of buying in the marketplace." **REUTERS**

## Ottawa, Ontario offer \$4B to autos

**BALLOUT** A historic \$4-billion lifeline to rescue General Motors and Chrysler in Canada is likely just the first instalment of public loans to the automakers, concedes Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The \$4 billion represents about 20 per cent of the \$17.4 billion US package announced for the two auto giants on Friday.

Ottawa is contributing \$2.7 billion in loans, while Ontario is adding \$1.3 billion.

GM and Chrysler in both countries will get some of the aid within days since they are close to running out of money for their operations. Ford didn't receive loans because it didn't ask, an Industry Department spokesman said — but the offer is open to them if management wants it. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/REUTERS**

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To cut heating energy and costs in winter, on sunny days open your south-facing drapes and let the sun in, according to SaskEnergy. The sun is a natural source of heat. If you have large windows that don't receive direct sun, keep the drapes closed. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

# Going Green

## Holiday shopping tips

Some tips to go green this holiday season. Don't fear shopping at thrift stores. A thoughtful gift will mean more than an expensive gift. Stuck on sweaters or socks as gift ideas? Give an assortment of CFL light bulbs, or replace someone's old Christmas lights with energy saving LED lights. Reuse gift bags. Don't throw them out when they still look perfectly new.

NEWS CANADA

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

### News in brief

**POLITICS** U.S. president-elect Barack Obama underscored Saturday his intent to push initiatives on climate change by naming John Holdren, an energy and climate specialist, as the new White House science adviser. Holdren is a Harvard University physicist who has focused on the causes and consequences of climate change and

advocated policies aimed at sustainable development. He has also done extensive research on the dangers of nuclear weapons. Obama pledged to put a priority on encouraging scientific breakthroughs in areas such as alternative energy solutions and finding cures to diseases.

REUTERS



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# A few bright ideas

Saving on energy bills doesn't have to leave you in the cold

**MATTHEW DEFAVERI**  
Metro World News



**A class at Oklahoma State University is working with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and spearheading a campaign around Earth Hour to raise awareness for energy conservation. The students shared some of their tips with Metro.**

**1** Use your ceiling fans, even in the winter. By reversing the fan blades to create an updraft (recirculating the hottest air near the ceiling through the rest of the room), you can save 10 per cent on heating in the winter. Heating costs for the winter in 2007 were \$928 US on average. Saving 10 per cent on heating costs translates to \$92.80, with a new cost of \$835.20.

**2** Make the switch to fluorescent light bulbs. If you use a 75-watt soft white normal bulb, you would get 121 hours of light for \$1. An 18-watt fluorescent light bulb will net you 505 hours of light for \$1. For the average household using 600 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, roughly 10 per cent of that electricity is lighting. With 60 kWh spent on light bulbs, 75-watt normal bulbs are costing you \$4.50/month and 18-watt fluorescent bulbs only cost you \$1.08/month, for a savings of \$3.42/month.

**3** Save on drinking water — buy a water filter. Each per-

son drinks roughly 115 litres of bottled water per year. One case of 24 half-litre bottles of water costs an average of \$7 US. At 115 litres per person, that's almost 10 cases of water!

**4** Unplug appliances when they aren't in use. You would be surprised how many electrical appliances can be easily unplugged once you're done using them. Things like colour TVs (313 watts), desktop computers (318 watts), microwaves (209 watts), or coffee makers (116 watts) are conven-

**You would be surprised how many electrical appliances can be easily unplugged once you're done using them.**

ient enough to unplug. Even small things such as stereo systems and laptops (81 and 90 watts, respectively) can be unplugged to save on your utility bill. Spaceheating systems, while more inconvenient

to unplug than a TV, guzzle an enormous 3,524 watts.

**5** Air dry dishes instead of using drying cycles. The drying setting on a dishwasher sucks up as much as 512 watts. The average household uses its dishwasher roughly four times a week, so that's 2,048 watts, or 8,192 watts per month. At a rate of \$0.11/kWh, you would save \$0.90 per month per month air drying your dishes instead of using the drying setting on the dishwasher.



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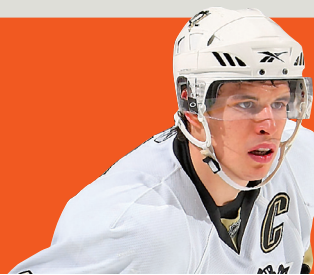


**Bergeron released from hospital**

Boston Bruins forward Patrice Bergeron, who missed most of last season with a concussion, was released from hospital yesterday after being diagnosed with another concussion. He was injured in Saturday's game against the Carolina Hurricanes. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**21**

# Sports



## Crosby blows away record

Sidney Crosby surpassed Jaromir Jagr's record for the most votes received by a player in NHL all-star game fan balloting yesterday. Crosby passed the 1,020,736-vote mark that Jagr set in 2000 while with the Penguins. Crosby's Penguins teammate Evgeni Malkin was also poised to top the record. There is still almost two weeks of voting remaining.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

# Remember the '58 Bulls

Fifty years ago, racism kept Buffalo from a bowl game. Toronto is its first one since

**JOHN CHICK**  
john.chick@metronews.ca



**Fifty years sounds like a long time. To Willie Evans, it seems like yesterday.**

The 1958 University of Buffalo Bulls football team went 8-1 and for the first time, received a coveted NCAA bowl invite. The Tangerine Bowl was an Orlando, Florida fixture back then. But there were other fixtures in U.S. south, and the leaseholders of the game told Buffalo that the team would only be welcome if they came without their two black players — running back Evans and defensive end Mike Wilson.

"The fellows I played with did a remarkable job of drawing a line in the sand," Evans recounted last week.

That line in the sand was opting not to go. The coach left it up to the team to decide, and they unanimously rejected the invite.

"I wasn't surprised," said Evans. "But for the



The Buffalo Bulls celebrate the MAC championship after defeating Ball State on Dec. 5. The win earned them a berth in the International Bowl in Toronto.

players to do what they did was remarkable."

Half a century later, the world has changed, sport-wise and socially. A third NCAA bowl game will be played in Toronto on Jan. 3 and an African American will be sworn in as president of the United States 17 days later.

This year's UB Bulls went 8-5, stunning Ball State in the Mid-American Conference title game to earn the International Bowl bid at the Rogers Centre. Having rejected the invite in 1958, it will be their first bowl appear-

ance ever, facing the University of Connecticut.

Before the game, Evans and members of that golden anniversary team will be honoured.

"The word I would use is 'ecstatic,'" said UB athletic director Warde Manuel. "I'm excited for the '58 team, that they're going to have a bowl experience."

Evans meanwhile, who has spent 36 years with the school's alumni association, wants the focus on today's players.

"The tributes should be made to the current," said

Evans. "We dealt with it, and we dealt with it extremely well."

Much of UB's recent success can be attributed to head coach and former CFL player Turner Gill.

That success has raised his stock on the NCAA coaching ladder, and last week NBA legend Charles Barkley accused his alma mater, Auburn University, of racism in passing over the African-American Gill in favour of former Iowa State coach Gene Chizik (for the record, Gill signed an extension to stay at Buffalo a day later). While Evans is happy Gill is staying put, he doesn't disagree with Barkley's opinion.

"I think it's apparent that the hiring of African-American coaches (in U.S. college football) is in need of improvement across the board," Evans said. Of 119 schools in the three levels of NCAA football, four have black head coaches.

"We've still got a way's to go, and I think that's reflective of what Charles Barkley said."

# Tyrell out, Kane in for juniors

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



**Cody Hodgson and the Canadian world junior team are off to an outstanding start in exhibition action.**

Hodgson, the 10th overall pick of the Vancouver Canucks in last June's NHL draft, had two goals and four assists in a pair of weekend victories, including last night's 7-3 triumph over Finland at Hershey Centre in Mississauga, Ont.

His line, with Zach Boychuk and Jordan Eberle, was an instant hit, combining for 12 points in two games.

John Tavares and Jamie Benn also chipped in offensively, scoring a pair of goals each; Stefan Della

Rovere had a goal and two assists; and Ryan Ellis had three assists.

Last night's game was tied 3-3 early in the third period when Canada scored four unanswered goals.

Canada, which also beat Sweden 4-2 on Friday at Air Canada Centre in Toronto, returns to action against Slovakia on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Eastern in Hamilton, Ont.

The WJC starts Boxing Day in Ottawa.

In other Team Canada news, forward Dana Tyrell suffered a significant knee injury and was sent home. Evander Kane, an offensively-gifted forward eligible for the 2009 NHL draft, will replace him. He has 48 points in 28 games for the WHL's Vancouver Giants this season.

## Sports in brief

**SNOWBOARDING** Kimiko Zakreski of Calgary and Jasey Jay Anderson of Mont-Tremblant, Que., placed fifth and sixth respectively in the parallel giant slalom races yesterday at a snowboard World Cup event. Zakreski was second in the first qualifying run and 27th in the second to stand ninth overall heading into the

playoff round.

**SKIING** Canadian aerialists captured all six available medals yesterday in Noram freestyle ski action. Olivier Rochon of Gatineau, Que., and Genevieve Tougas of Saint Hubert, Que., won for the second straight day to lead the Canadian sweep. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## SCOREBOARD

### NFL

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 24 Minnesota 17  
Buffalo 30 Denver 23  
Cincinnati 14 Cleveland 0  
Miami 38 Kansas City 31  
New England 47 Arizona 7  
New Orleans 42 Detroit 7  
Oakland 27 Houston 16  
San Francisco 17 St. Louis 16  
San Diego 41 Tampa Bay 24  
Seattle 13 N.Y. Jets 3  
Tennessee 31 Pittsburgh 14  
Washington 10 Philadelphia 3  
Carolina at N.Y. Giants

#### SATURDAY'S RESULT

Baltimore 33 Dallas 24

#### TONIGHT'S GAME

Green Bay at Chicago

### NHL

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 3 Montreal 2 (OT)  
Boston 6 St. Louis 3  
Florida 3 Colorado 0  
New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 2 (SO)

# North America falls to World

**CURLING** Kevin Martin's Edmonton rink fell short in its quest to lead a North American win, handing the World team a 208-192 victory at the Continental Cup curling event yesterday.

With 201 points needed for victory and North America trailing 193-152 entering the final competition — the men's skins — Martin needed a near-miracle.

After he and Norway's

Thomas Ulsrud split the first two ends, Martin failed to score two with his final shot of the third end, resulting in a carry-over.

The defending world champion could only watch as Ulsrud made the shot of the day with his final stone in the fourth, executing a perfect triple-raise takeout and holding the shooter for the title-clinching two-point end.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kevin Martin and North America came up short yesterday.

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# Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## Gender gap on the rise

According to a new report, women will account for an average of 59 per cent of post-secondary education (PSE) students across the developed world by 2025. In Canada, there could be almost twice as many female students as male. In 2005, 58 per cent of PSE students in Canada were female, and that number is expected to rise to 64 per cent by 2025. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# It's all about the presentation

OddJobs



**Diane Peters**

When you're out shopping, your eyes pick out things on your list, the shapes and colours you like, and the sale tags.

Leslie Groves, a 33-year-old retail consultant — and gift-wrapping expert — from Brantford, Ont., sees a lot more. She's spent her entire professional life in stores and she knows how to transform the dingiest shop into something special, the

most useless piece of junk into a display prop and the simplest gift into a showpiece when wrapped.

Last holiday season, she spent an entire day at Toronto's Holt Renfrew, wrapping gifts. She also runs a wrapping seminar at gift shows. She shows people how to choose the right colours, make 20 different kinds of bows, and cost out their materials.

She's also a whiz at inventing props for retail displays. "I can walk through the plumbing department at a hardware store and come up with some great ideas," she says. Using her home workshop, she converts discarded industrial wooden spools into lightweight display tables and wooden skids into little

white picket fences.

Groves first started working in retail at age 13 — she cleaned the buckets in a flower shop. Eventually, she started arranging and got good enough to win awards for her designs.

She studied retailing at Humber College and, in 1998, she was hired by Humber to help it revamp its retail program. That project really reinforced a simple but important idea to her: "It's all based on the elements of design, it's just how you apply it," she says.

But many stores she saw at the time were too cluttered and their dis-



The Lowdown

**Job title:** Retail consultant/gift wrapping expert

**Salary:** As much or as little as you want, depending on how hard you work

**Education/training:** Experience in retail and a college diploma in retail merchandising

**Best Part of the Job:** "Everyone has a different niche, and they share what they know with me. I combine that with what I know and pass it on to my next client."

**Worst Part of the Job:** "Sometimes I'm too busy and I don't get to be at home with my daughter."

training staff on point-of-sale systems and gift-wrapping.


Between doing demonstrations at gift shows, working in stores herself, running training programs, consulting with business owners and powering up her mitre saw, no two days are ever the same for Groves.

And while the experts say times will be tough

for retail in the coming year, Groves thinks there will be plenty for her to do. "People are scaling down, and they need to be more effective with their visuals, and they'll need help with that," she says. "And there are still lots of businesses opening up."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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**PETA opts for Oprah**

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has named Oprah Winfrey its Person of the Year. The group singled out the media mogul for using her "powerful voice to defend those without one." **PEOPLE.COM**

**23**

# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

## Chace's chance

Chace Crawford is adding another role to his resumé. The *Gossip Girl* heartthrob will star in singer Leona Lewis' video for her next single, *I Will Be*.

IMDB.COM

## Bedtime a dream for Toronto-born producer

PHIL BROWN  
for Metro Canada



**Toronto-born producer Andrew Gunn has managed to carve a nice little niche for himself in Hollywood.**

He founded Gunn Films with Walt Disney Studios in 2000 and has made a career out of producing live action family films like *Sky High* and *Freaky Friday* that appeal to a wider audience than most pre-school centric Disney fare.

His latest project brings Adam Sandler to Disney for *Bedtime Stories*, in which Sandler plays a man who invents fantasy stories for his niece and nephew only to see some elements of the stories come to life.

Sandler is normally involved in creating his screenplays, but this was one of the rare instances in

### Movie feature

which the studio brought the project to him.

"We did about three or four drafts of the script and hired the director," says Gunn. "Everybody thought that Adam could be great so we sent (the script) to him and were surprised to find out that he was into it. I think now that he's a dad he wanted to do something for his kids."

Of course once Sandler came on board he immediately went out of his way to make the movie his own.

"Adam brought in [screenwriter] Tim Hirtlihy who he's known since the old days at SNL and they did a couple passes on the script," said Gunn. "It was Adam and Tim who thought to make each story different and set one in



Adam Sandler stars in the family film *Bedtime Stories*.

Rome, one in the wild west, one in outerspace and that sort of thing.

There are actor/producers who aren't normally that involved, but Adam is inti-

mately involved in every aspect of the movie from the casting to the music. He knows what he does very well and at a certain point you just have to trust in him and let him work."

The result is a film that plays to children, but also has Sandler's distinct comedic tone and a variety of his regular cast members. One surprising casting choice came in the form of controversial comedian Russell Brand, who fit into the family film quite well.

"Russell has the ability to even take a line without a joke in it and make it funny. There's nothing funnier than seeing him next to two nine year old kids. There's something very wrong with that picture."

*Bedtime Stories* opens Christmas Day in theatres across Canada.

### Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday:

- 1 Yes Man** \$18.2 million US
- 2 Seven Pounds** \$16 million
- 3 The Tale of Despereaux** \$10.5 million
- 4 The Day the Earth Stood Still** \$10.2 million
- 5 Four Christmases** \$7.7 million
- 6 Twilight** \$5.2 million
- 7 Bolt** \$4.3 million
- 8 Slumdog Millionaire** \$3.2 million
- 9 Australia** \$2.3 million
- 10 Quantum of Solace** \$2.2 million **REUTERS**

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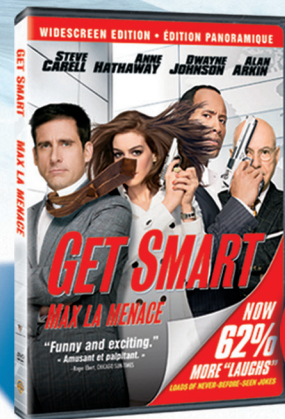
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Miley Cyrus and MTV are teaming up for a big New Year's Eve special. FNMTV Presents: A Miley-Sized Surprise ... New Year's Eve 2009 will feature live performances from Miley, who will surprise one lucky fan by hosting the show from his or her home. [MSN.COM](http://msn.com)

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Eva Mendes plays a beguiling jewel thief in *The Spirit*.

## Eva reveals her Spirit

STEVE GOW  
for Metro Canada



### Movie feature

**If her role in *The Spirit* is any indication, Eva Mendes must have really liked playing dress-up as a little girl. Somehow though, I don't think it was to play the part of a princess.**

"The fun part for me was definitely putting on the glamour and wearing the clothes," says the Cuban-American beauty. "(But) the core of this woman was pain."

Portraying sexy thief Sand Saref in *The Spirit* — it opens Christmas Day — took more than just being glamorous. Mendes cites her character's origin, pointing out that Saref may have an unparalleled passion for diamonds, but like the jewel itself, her character has a rocky past.

"Once I found that foun-

dation, then it made me realize where she was coming from so I could go big and I could be as ridiculous as I wanted to be whether it was in hairstyle or action or in wardrobe."

Based on a popular wartime comic strip by Will Eisner, *The Spirit* is not only about a powerful masked crime-fighter but he's surrounded by a company of irresistibly strong femme fatales.

As co-star Scarlett Johansson once put it, "Eisner was writing these great female characters at a time when people put women in a domesticated kind of box."

"What I loved about this was just that my character was created in the 1940's so I had this real dame-broad kind of appeal," said Mendes.

"She was just so over the top and fantastical and she has some of the best lines in the movie — 'Shut up and bleed' being one of my favourites."

While she definitely has some of the catchiest dialogue in the flick, she's also arguably its sexiest character.

In one eye-catching scene, she's able to avoid arrest when she drops her robe — shocking *The Spirit* and moviegoers with a revealing backside.

"The point is my character uses everything she has as a woman to get what she wants," admitted Mendes.

"If there were no brains behind the body I would have major qualms with it. This girl's kick ass in every way and she's such a smart dame that part of getting what she wants is turning up the sex."

## French judge gives OK to *Les Miserables* sequels

**LAWUIT** Modern-day sequels to Victor Hugo's classic *Les Miserables* have been allowed after a French court threw out a suit from the 19th century master's descendants, a lawyer for publishers Plon said on Friday.

After a years-long legal

battle, the Paris appeals court ruled in favour of Plon, publishers of two novels based on *Les Miserables* by a modern-day author named Francois Ceresa, Plon's lawyer Paul Lombard said.

"The court has dismissed the suit from the descen-

dants of Victor Hugo and ordered them to pay 10,000 euros (\$13,960 US) in damages and interest," he told Reuters.

The ruling by the appeals court in Paris follows a claim by Pierre Hugo and other descendants against Plon and Ceresa. **REUTERS**

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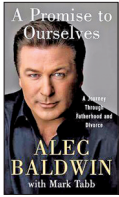


Retro revival

The Game Show Network is moving forward with its revival of The Newlywed Game, ordering 40 half-hour episodes, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Bob Eubanks hosted the original version of the show. [IMDB.COM](#)



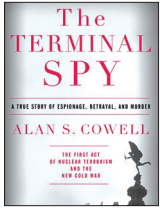
# Baldwin a forgotten father



## A Promise to Ourselves

**Author:** Alec Baldwin  
**Publisher:** H.B. Fenn  
**Price:** \$27.95 (Hardcover)

Comedic actor Alec Baldwin puts on his tragedy mask to tell his side of his recent divorce and custody battle in *A Promise to Ourselves*, his memoir on fatherhood. Baldwin aims to transcend tabloids and offer a personal account of the psychological, emotional and legal struggles he faced during his divorce from L.A. Confidential actress Kim Basinger in 2002. Using reminiscence about his ex-wife and expression of distress over the fight for their daughter Ireland, Baldwin bares all. Though at times heavy on details and introductions, the memoir still relays Baldwin's feelings and undisguised criticism of the American legal system.

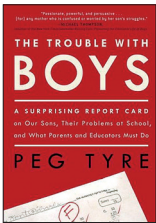


## The Terminal Spy

**Author:** Alan S. Cowell  
**Publisher:** Doubleday Canada  
**Price:** \$32.00 (Hardcover)

British journalist and Pulitzer Prize nominee Alan S. Cowell walks through what he calls "the first act of nuclear terrorism" in his thorough account, *The Terminal Spy: A True Story of Espionage, Betrayal and Murder*. When subversive Russian writer Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned with radioactive polonium, Alan S. Cowell was there. He recalls his reporting on the case for the New York Times and international journalism to assemble Litvinenko's case and examine other plots to kill the dissident. By considering all the players, Cowell makes a case for what repercussions the largely unpunished crime may have.

## BookPicks



## The Trouble with Boys

**Author:** Peg Tyre  
**Publisher:** Crown  
**Price:** \$27.95 (Hardcover)

Is it safe to conclude that boys will be boys? Not so, according to Pulitzer Prize winning New York journalist Peg Tyre. In her assessment, she travels back as early as preschool, pinpointing numerous problem areas in schools that contribute to the detriment of the developing male. From what effect a lack of male teachers has to why fewer men are enrolling in post-secondary studies, Tyre tries to make clear where we are going wrong and what can be done to save the state of boys.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

# Warner Music pulls videos from YouTube

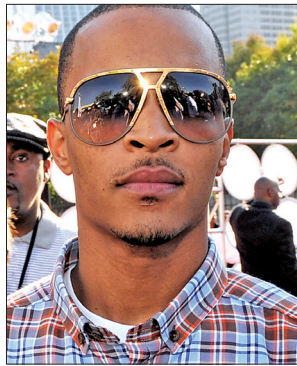
**Warner Music Group ordered YouTube on Saturday to remove all music videos by its artists from the popular online video-sharing site after contract negotiations broke down.**

The order could affect hundreds of thousands of videos clips, as it covers Warner Music's recorded artists as well as the rights for songs published by its Warner/Chappell unit, which includes many artists not signed to Warner Music record labels.

The talks fell apart early Saturday because Warner wants a bigger share of the huge revenue potential of YouTube's massive visitor traffic. There were no reports on what Warner was seeking.

"We simply cannot accept terms that fail to appropriately and fairly compensate recording artists, songwriters, labels and publishers for the value they provide," Warner said in a statement.

YouTube is hugely popular, with more than 100 million viewers in the United States alone in Oc-



Rapper T.I. is among artists signed by Warner Music.

tober, according to comScore, a Web audience measurement firm.

Warner Music, home to artists including Red Hot Chili Peppers and rapper T.I., was the first major media company to negotiate a deal with YouTube in 2006.

The music companies typically get paid a share of any advertising revenue associated with the video and a per-play payment for every video viewed. But a source familiar with Warner Music's talks said the amounts it has been receiving were "staggeringly low."

REUTERS

## In brief

**BURGLARY** Celebrity heiress Paris Hilton's house was broken into Friday by a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt and gloves who forced open the front door and made off with belongings, police said. Hilton was not home during the early morning burglary, said Richard French, spokesman for the Los Angeles Police Department. Police did not release the value of the stolen items.

REUTERS



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CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00			
12/22/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Women of Karaoun (DVS)		Help TV			
	243	317	3 CFCN	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Shrek the Halls	Corner Gas	Would Be Kings (2008, Crime Drama)		(DVS)	News (N)			
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News	The Simpsons	Chinese Rest.	Metropia			
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Shrek the Halls	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005, Fantasy)					
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Pooh	Stuart McLean	The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National	The Hour			
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	ReGenesis	House "Not Cancer"		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		News Hour			
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU	Rita Rocks		Friends	All-Time Christmas Bloopers		A World of Difference	Your City			
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Antarctique	La Petite vie	Le Moment de vérité (N) (SC)		Grand Rire de Québec		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	TJ Ouest			
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming					Local Programming					
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Time Life	The Doctors		Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami		
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	'Allo, 'Allo!	Chronicles		Antiques Roadshow		Life a House Built		Christmas-Luth		
	pretime	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Prince William & Harry		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		The Future	
-		370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	2008: Today Looks Back		Momma's Boys (N)				
-		373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Not Cancer"		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		News (N)		
297		652	37 WPIX	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier		
500		500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360		
508		502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		
400		400	21 TSN	(6:30) NFL Football Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears.						SportsCentre		Madden Nation	Poker	
408		418	27 net	Oilers Conn	NHL Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports	
410		403	30 SCORE	(7:15) WWE Monday Night Raw						(9:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw		
411		457	44 OLN	Man Tracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Man Tracker		Bounty Hunter		
417		406	48 SPEED	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car		
family		552	543	20 YTV	Rugrats Chnkh	Told by Ginger	A Miser Brothers' Christmas		Year Without a Santa Claus		Jack Frost ★★ (1998, Fantasy), Kelly Preston			
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School		
	555	545	67 TOON	Tom & Jerry: Nutcracker		Foster-Claus	6teen (DVS)	The Side Show		Christmas	Futurama	American Dad		
	575	583	11 CMT	Tara Oram's Christmas Carol		Donner Down	The Gift	All Through the Night		George Canyon's Christmas Videos				
	553	546	17 TREE	Wonder Pets	Backyardigans	A Very Fairy Christmas		Franklin	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!		
	-	-	18 CHTV	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	Name Is Earl	How I Met	Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)				
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two						
	602	568	23 W	Man Who Saved C'mas		Friends	Will & Grace	Confidential	Maxed Out	The Road to Christmas (2006, Comedy)				
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate		
	603	561	25 FOOD	Good Eats		Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares	Restaurant Makeover		12 Days of Cookies		Good Eats		
	615	520	26 A&E	Intervention "Nicole" (N)		Runaway	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	Intervention "Derek"	Intervention			
	617	522	32 SHOW	Prime Suspect 7		The Christmas Choir (2008, Drama)		Jason Gedrick.		Kenny-Spenney	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl		
cable variety	601	562	33 SLICE	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Trading Sp		
	-	633	34 ENC2	(7:10) Practical Magic ★★ (1998, Comedy-Drama)					Jack Frost ★★ (1998, Fantasy), Kelly Preston		Home for the Holidays (1995)			
	520	505	35 DISC	Dirty Jobs "Micro Algae Man"		Vermintors		Daily Planet	Maxed Out	Dirty Jobs "Micro Algae Man"		Vermintors		
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Pater Noster	6 Possibilities	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order	Without a Trace		Frogs-Snakes			
	294	650	40 WPCB	(6) Forces of Nature (1999)		Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Family Guy	Forces of Nature (1999, Romance-Comedy)				
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham			
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) Exodus ★★ (1960, Historical Drama) Paul Newman.					Yentl ★★ (1983, Musical) Barbra Streisand.					
	628	584	43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC 92 Countdown (HDTV) (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		Trek: Voyager		
	522	516	45 HIST	Underworld Histories		NCIS "Deception"		Battle 360		Underworld Histories		NCIS		
	627	528	46 SPACE	The Dresden Files		Eureka		Stargate SG-1 "Need"		Lost "Par Avion"		Deep Space 9		
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) The Right Stuff ★★ (1983, Docudrama) Sam Shepard, Scott Glenn, Ed Harris.									The Flight of the Phoenix	
	619	525	49 TROP	News Show	News Show	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men	What Happen?		Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap		
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.		
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet		
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Berman's Call	Money Talks	Squeeze Play		
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums	In Dreams	Judging Amy	Commander			
	269	350	93 APTN	MYTV		The Mix	La Voix Mechif	Metcom	Another Country (2003, Drama) Dakota House, Tina Keeper.					Respect
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy-Entertain		
	571	581	100 MMM	Story Of Ozzy Osborne.		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five		Listed		
	570	580	101 MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	50 Cent: Money and Power		50 Cent: Money and Power		MuchNews: Misses, Kisses		MuchOnDem		
581	566	102 MTV	(6) The Hills (Live)		The Hills	The Hills Live After Show		MTV Live	Mom & Dad	The Hills	The Hills			

## critics'corner

### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

If you're like us and appreciate young Freddie Highmore, grab some popcorn. He stars as Charlie, a poor boy who wins a trip to see the inside of a mysterious candymaker's — played by Johnny Depp — factory. If you saw the 1971 version, you'll be happy to know no chickens were beheaded in this 2005 remake. 9:30 PM on KXLY



### A Miser Brothers' Christmas

Fans of the classic special "The Year Without a Santa Claus" will remember the Heat Miser and Snow Miser. In this new animated special, they get to be the good guys when the North Wind sabotages Santa's sleigh, leaving him laid up at Christmastime. These guys have a case of sibling rivalry, but they must set it aside to save the holiday. 8 PM on YTV

### Stuart McLean's Vinyl Cafe Christmas Pageant

The host of the popular radio show "The Vinyl Cafe" takes his act to television in this holiday special, in which he relates his determination to put on a holiday pageant for the people of Belleville, Ont., whether they like it or not. Well, let's just say the term "comedy of errors" comes to mind. 8:30 PM on CBRT





Jessica Alba and her husband of seven months, Cash Warren, threw a long-overdue wedding reception on the weekend at their Beverly Hills home, according to usmagazine.com. The couple married last May and has a 6-month-old daughter. [EONLINE.COM](http://EONLINE.COM)

Better late than never

## Celebrity Buzz

### Madonna ready to adopt again?

**CHILDREN** Madonna is reportedly moving ahead with plans to adopt another child from Malawi.

According to Star magazine, the singer is reportedly heading to the African nation — with new pal Alex Rodriguez in tow — to retrieve now four-year-old girl Mercy James, even though Malawian adoption suggested that the singer's divorce from director Guy Ritchie would make the planned adoption impossible.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Lohan: Please save Sam's Facebook

**PEOPLE** Lindsay Lohan is upset that her rumoured girlfriend Samantha Ronson's Facebook profile was deleted, much like Lohan's was recently.

To remedy the situation, the Mean Girls actress took to her MySpace blog of all places to get the word out.

"Please put hers back exactly the way it was as you guys at Facebook did for mine," Lohan wrote.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### 'Lonely' Nicole finds love with hubby

**MARRIAGE** Nicole Kidman was a "lonely" woman when she met Keith Urban, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports.

The 41-year-old actress



— who gave birth to Sunday Rose, her first child with husband Keith, in July — was tired of being unlucky in love before she was introduced to country singer Keith.

Nicole, who is divorced from Tom Cruise, said: "My husband Keith is the most important person in my life, and I am for him. We were two lonely people who met at a time when we could open ourselves up to each other."

"We were a mixture of brave and frightened. Since getting married, I have passed up a lot of projects. I don't want to be away from the person I love. Home is in my husband's arms."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Stripdancing has complexity: Tomei

**ACTING** Marisa Tomei has done her fair share of nude scenes, but even she was somewhat wary of dancing around in a G-string — and nothing else — in her role as a stripper opposite Mickey Rourke, in *The Wrestler*, [people.com](http://people.com) reports

"I didn't really want to be topless in every single dance number ... but there were certain things called for in the plot, and then I wanted to feel comfortable as her and I wanted it to be flattering."

So how did Tomei get into character? Research.

"I talked to a bunch of different girls and a bunch of different dancers. We just went out, had some drinks, went to a bunch of clubs, watched a lot

of dances, got some dances," she says.

"It's like anything, any subculture. You get in there, and it's all individuals. And the dancing itself is not tawdry to the dancer and there's a lot more complexity there than you'd think."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

### Vaughn to ring in 2009 with a ring?

**RELATIONSHIP** Looks like Vince Vaughn could welcome in 2009 with a wife-to-be, [msn.com](http://msn.com) reports.

According to *In Touch* magazine, the 38-year-old is planning to pop the question to squeeze Kyla Weber, a Canadian real estate agent, over New Year's.

A pal of the actor's tells the mag he's already selected a four-carat-plus engagement ring with an estimated price tag of \$125,000 US. "Vince is ready to get married and has been for a while," says the buddy. "He wants

to start a family."

Vaughn confirms he's off the market but, perhaps having learned a thing or two from his tabloid-bait, wedding rumour-crammed romance with Jennifer Aniston, offers few details. "I don't talk much about private matters," he informs *USA Today*. "But I am in a very happy, serious, committed relationship."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Robbie would ruin Take That reunion: Lily

**PEOPLE** Lily Allen thinks Take That would be "ruined" if Robbie Williams re-joined the group, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) says.

The singer — who has approached the group to record a track with her —

will be furious if the star is reunited with the band he left in 1995.

Speaking about rumours Robbie will return to Take That: "That's not going to happen. Do you think they will get him back? That would ruin it. I love Take That."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Legend an Obamaniac

**POLITICS** Singer John Legend was so confident president-elect Barack Obama would be heading to the White House after last month's election, he hired the VIP suite of a hotel for

friends to celebrate in, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports. "We had the TV set up, had a bunch of drinks set up. We were just hoping we had something to celebrate. And we did," he says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Adoption an option if I'm infertile: Hough

**PEOPLE** Country singer Julianne Hough isn't fazed by the possibility she may be infertile after her recent bout of endometriosis — insisting she'd adopt if she can't have children of her own, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports.

The star was hospitalized during the current season of the TV talent show, and doctors discovered a growth outside her womb.

Specialists insist she should still be able to have kids, but she says

she's happy to find an alternative: "The doctor said I should be okay. But if I was unable to conceive, I'd adopt."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Clay expecting second child

**CHILDREN** Former American Idol star Clay Aiken is expecting another child.

Aiken's friend, music producer Jaymes Parker, who acted as a surrogate for Aiken's first child, 4-month-old Parker, is pregnant again and is due in August 2009, according to [Babble.com](http://Babble.com).

Sources said that Aiken and Parker wanted to give their son a younger sibling as soon as possible



METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SUPER BOXING DAY SALE!

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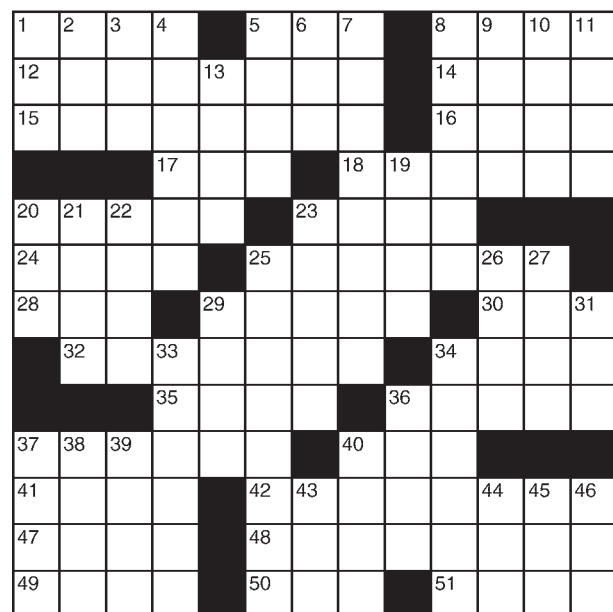


**Today**Mostly cloudy  
-18°C / -26°C**Tuesday**Sunny  
-15°C / -28°C**Wednesday**Partly cloudy  
-12°C / -21°C**Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television**

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."

WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

## Take Five



## Crossword across

- 1 Castle protection  
5 Help  
8 Paper quantity  
12 Acquire by ingenuity  
14 Sicilian volcano  
15 Passenger's confiner  
16 Loony  
17 That man's  
18 Wind musician  
20 Pains' mates  
23 From the start  
24 Duo  
25 Compulsive cleaner  
28 Bygone days, once  
29 Our planet  
30 Bill  
32 Pasty  
34 Sandwich shop  
35 Architect Mies van der  
—  
36 Ready for battle  
37 Not destroyed  
40 "CSI" evidence  
41 Bedouin  
42 Long high-temp stretch  
47 Reiner or Lewis  
48 Cuba, Jamaica, etc.  
49 Advertise greatly  
50 Red or Black  
51 Collections

## Crossword down

- 1 Wrong (Pref.)  
2 Inseparable  
3 Actress Gardner  
4 Leash  
5 Census statistics  
6 Under the weather  
7 Set off an explosion  
8 Fame  
9 Needle case  
10 Picnic intruders  
11 Sail support  
13 Wading bird  
19 "Little Women" woman  
20 Gorilla  
21 Tranquil  
22 Stash  
23 Eagle's nest  
25 Petroleum-like liquids  
26 Particular  
27 Hardy cabbage  
29 British prep school  
31 Auction offer  
33 Fit for use as farmland  
34 Speaks slowly  
36 Con  
37 Apiece  
38 Picture of health?  
39 Rainout cover  
40 Information  
43 Away from WSW  
44 Brewery product  
45 Animal doc  
46 Ar follower

## PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



3	7	4	2	1	9	8	6	5
5	1	8	6	7	4	3	2	9
2	6	9	8	5	3	7	4	1
7	4	5	9	6	8	1	3	2
1	8	2	4	3	7	9	5	6
6	9	3	5	2	1	4	7	8
9	3	6	7	8	5	2	1	4
4	5	1	3	9	2	6	8	7
8	2	7	1	4	6	5	9	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

## SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius  
13-17 min Scholar17-21 min Smart  
21-25 min Not bad  
25+ min Keep practising

## Metro Recipe of the Day



## Flank Steak with Balsamic Sauce

## INGREDIENTS:

1/3 cup (75 mL) orange juice  
1/4 cup (50 mL) balsamic vinegar  
1 tsp (5 mL) Worcestershire sauce  
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt, or to taste  
Freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1 1/2 pounds (700 g) flank steak, trimmed  
2 tbsp (25 mL) finely chopped large shallot  
1 tsp (5 mL) olive oil  
2 tsp (10 mL) unsalted butter

## METHOD:

1. In small bowl, whisk orange juice, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper. Place steak in a shallow glass dish, pour on orange juice mixture and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, turning several times.  
2. Remove steak from marinade and pour marinade into small saucepan. Add shallot and set aside. Brush ridged

grill pan or heavy skillet with oil and place over medium-high heat. Add steak to pan and, depending on thickness, cook for 6 to 7 minutes per side, or until it reaches the desired doneness. Transfer to cutting board and let stand for 5 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, bring marinade to a boil over medium-high heat and cook until reduced to 1/3 cup (75 mL), 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat, add butter and whisk until melted.  
4. Slice steak thinly across grain. Add any accumulated juices on cutting board to sauce and serve with the steak. One serving is 3 oz (85 g) steak and 1 tbsp (15 mL) sauce.

SERVES 6

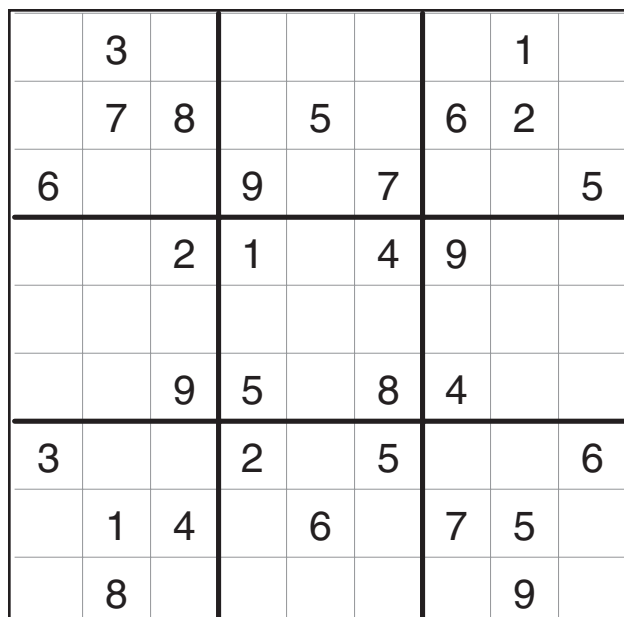
rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



## Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



## Horoscopes

## AVATAR VENUS

## ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



Learn to enjoy spending time alone. Smiling at your troubles will be endearing. Take the high road in questions of integrity.

## LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



A younger person will jump at the chance to visit. A scrawny guy teaches a valuable lesson. An interesting remark will affect your future.

## TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



A wimpy guy will slow down negotiations. Check the expiry date on fridge foods. A thoughtful person tells a little lie.

## SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Someone is having sweet dreams of you. Someone else is stuck at home. Too much silence can get aggravating.

## GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Peculiar ideas are viewed with alarm. A toy brings back some memories. A busybody will often be ignored.

## SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



An associate settles down after a snit. Give thanks where it's due. A do-gooder is preoccupied with giving good advice.

## CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



Everything you do will be rewarding. A tall man has a weighty problem. A former associate must pay money back.

## CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



News of a significant event gives good cheer. A victorious friend wants to celebrate. A family matter will be resolved fairly.

## LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



Turn the other cheek in a conflict. Someone's retreat shows profound hurt. Say goodbye to a foolish notion.

## AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



A sensitive male will refuse to bow down. Listen carefully when a girl speaks. Get a grip on your self-control.

## VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



Don't let hurt feelings block a conversation. A relative's whining will grate on your nerves. Someone is caught up in a frenzy.

## PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



A computer glitch is baffling. Be quiet and purposeful when taking action. You'll find your way through a thicket of evasion.

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